

HEARD IN HOTEL CORRIDORS

YESTERDAY THE BIGGEST SATURDAY IN A LONG TIME.

Auto Show and New Year's Celebration the Causes—A Missing Brooch and Some Other Stories of Losses—A Visitor Who Was Sure He Owed \$7.

The biggest Saturday at the hotels in a long time was yesterday, for instead of the usual exodus of visitors that takes place on Saturday visitors kept coming in and some of the hotels near the Grand Central Station were filled before noon. The cause was partly the opening of the Palace Automobile Show, though at some hotels it was said a lot of people had come to New York and taken rooms just to be here for New Year's.

A Western woman who is at the Welcott lost a valuable diamond brooch set with diamonds the day before yesterday and after searching everywhere she could think of and advertising her loss discovered that her pin had been found in her own hotel, where she had not thought to inquire.

She left the Welcott at noon to go up to the Plaza for luncheon. A few minutes after she had gone the manager of the hotel stepped on something that lay upon the rug in the lobby, and picking it up had it put in the safe to await a claimant. None appeared as the afternoon wore away. The owner of the pin did not become aware of her loss until after she had finished her luncheon. Then every body in the dining room and the cloak-room of the Plaza got busy. It was the same way later at a department store. Then the owner of the brooch made a determined effort to locate the loss in which she had ridden up Fifth avenue. Then she advertised.

It was not until the night that she mentioned in the manager of her hotel that she had an advertisement in the paper he was reading, and this was the first information that anybody in the hotel had that she had lost a pin.

"Every hotel man dreams a nightmare," said a clerk yesterday, "and thank goodness they are rare with us, but I remember one occasion where a lady found a brooch almost drove a negro crazy to find it."

"Nobody concerned the brooch of a man who had a certain room on the fifth bedroom floor. He remained in his room during the evening after his arrival, and when the watchman, making his rounds, found the light still burning after midnight he began to get anxious. At 1 the transom was still alight and at half past 1 the watchman decided to rap on the door. There was no answer. He rapped louder and still louder, and kept it up until he had most of the occupants of other rooms on the floor and peering through the transoms saw what he had expected by this time to see—the body of a man stretched out upon the bed, his mouth wide open.

"The watchman rushed down stairs and two of the night porters, a negro bellboy and I went up with him. The door was locked from the inside. We took out a panel of it and opened the door and the bellboy was sent in to open the window. Just as he flung it open he turned to look at the bed. At it that moment the corpse rose and reaching under the pillow dug out an ear trumpet. The negro gave one yell and tumbled out of the open window, landing on the concrete pavement of the court. The porters took off down the hall, and I must confess I started after them. But I had caught a glimpse of what the dead corpse had found, and soon came to my senses, realizing that what we had on our hands was not a dead but a deaf man."

"The paragraph in yesterday's Sun about the liberality of hotel visitors toward hotel employees who find articles the visitors have lost recalls two very curious instances of lost and found occurrences here," said a hotel manager yesterday. "In one case the woman who had lost an article was angry when it was found."

"A woman went out one morning leaving her watch under her pillow. It had slipped between the sheets and the chambermaid had gathered the two up together, shaken them out of the window and tossed them into a basket. The woman soon came hurrying back to the hotel looking for her watch. The room was searched carefully, but with no result and the chambermaid was the only person that had had access to it. Things began to look dark for the girl when the house detective happened to go to the window and look out. There, caught between two slats of the fire escape platform by the clasp pin to which it was attached, was the missing watch.

"In the other case, a woman who had been out shopping entered the hotel breathlessly one morning and after a hurried trip to her room came down and demanded that we have the chambermaid arrested. She said that her engagement ring, which had cost almost \$600 had been stolen from her room and as the chambermaid was the only person who had been in the room besides herself she knew she had stolen it. I sent to the nearest station for a detective and the latter questioned the chambermaid closely. The latter had been with us for several years and was highly thought of. Becoming convinced of her innocence and having no wish to subject her to arrest, the detective put a few questions to the visitor herself. She was indignant. She told at length that she had that morning put the ring together with four others into her pocketbook and left it in her room while she went to breakfast. Finding the room empty while in a department store to take out her purse she had discovered that her engagement ring was gone. She insisted that the chambermaid had stolen it and that the detective should arrest her.

"The detective insisted on making a thorough examination of the room in spite of protest. At one end of the dressing table was a pair of high shoes. The detective picked up one and turned it upside down and dropped the missing ring. It had been on the dressing table with the others that morning and when the woman swept the bed into her purse it had fallen into the shoe. Now instead of being gratified over the recovery of the ring and trying to make amends to the chambermaid for her suspicion that woman was angrier than ever. She was so mortified over having been proven in the wrong that she was angry with the maid and the detective both."

In some hotels in New York they have an account to which is charged small items that visitors through some mistake either on their part or on that of the hotel neglect to pay. The cost of laundry that is omitted from the bill, a meal which the visitor forgot to settle for after having paid his bill and so on are among the items. The account seldom diminishes, but the one at a certain hotel was credited with \$7 the other day.

A visitor who had been seeing New York galleries had lost his bill, but as he was about to leave he approached the cashier.

"I owe you \$7," he said.

"No, Mr. Blank, you owe us nothing; aim as it makes no difference. I owe you \$7," you paid the \$7 a little while ago."

let him have his way and swept the bills he proffered into the till.

"I have had some queer things put over me," said a disgruntled room clerk yesterday, "but when it comes to a woman insisting that the furniture of a hotel room match her frocks that is one too much."

"I had tried my best to reserve a certain suite for a woman who was arriving from a distant city, and when she got here I sent her upstairs confident that for once I had given her rooms she would like. Not on your life. She was back almost before the elevator was."

"Oh, those rooms will not do at all," she said.

"But are they not just what you asked for?" I said.

"Yes, but the furniture is not of the right color. I never did look well in red and I haven't any red frocks, and I simply cannot stay up there. You must give me something with darker furniture, as all my dresses are dark."

BUYERS STUCK AND STAY SO.

First Mortgage Forgot When They Bid at Foreclosure Sale Under Second.

Mrs. Jennie Freed and Mrs. Bessie Freed, who married brothers, had their first experience at buying property at auction a month ago and as a result of it they asked Supreme Court Justice Amundson to relieve them of their bid of \$5,000 on property at 218 West Sixty-fourth street, which is encumbered by a first mortgage of \$14,800 and is appraised at only \$16,500.

The affidavits of the two women indicate a lack of team work on the part of themselves, their attorney, Emanuel Jacobus, and their brother-in-law, Benjamin E. Freed, at the sale, which was on the foreclosure of a second mortgage. The interest of the two petitioners in the sale was to protect a loan of \$4,000 they had made to a man who held a third mortgage.

The petitioners said they didn't know that under their bid they had to take over the first mortgage too, so when the bidding started at \$5,000 they finally went to \$7,700 they didn't object when their brother-in-law bid \$5,800 for them and got the property, thinking that he had been induced to do so by their lawyer. The lawyer said he didn't object to the bid on their behalf because he thought the women had ordered it. It wasn't until they signed the terms of sale that they found out that they had agreed to pay \$20,387, including all costs, for property worth only \$16,500 and still had no security for their loan.

The holder of the third mortgage said he had little sympathy for the Mrs. Freed because they collected 16 per cent. as a bonus for the loan before he got the money. The court denied the application to set aside the sale.

APPELLATE DIVISION JESTS

At the Lower Court's Presumed Theory of Cheating Up a Burglary.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court ordered a new trial yesterday of a suit brought by Ingersoll Bros. of 45 Cortlandt street against the United Surety Company for \$254 loss in a burglary on July 4, 1908. The firm reported a loss of \$200 worth of watches, fountain pens and revolvers, and \$54 worth of cutlery, but the surety company denied its responsibility, alleging that the firm's books were not in such shape that it could be learned how much was stolen. A jury in the lower court gave a verdict for \$220.

In reversing the judgment the Appellate Division said that the firm arrived at its loss on the basis of an inventory taken six months before, by adding the subsequent purchases and subtracting the subsequent sales.

"It is difficult to suggest any other way of proving the goods stolen," said the court, "unless it should be held that direct evidence must be given, in which case a checker should have sat at the door and watched the burglars make off with the property and checked off each piece as it passed out."

RIGO IN BUDAPEST.

Gypsy Musician Brings His New American Wife to His Old Home.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—The National Zeitung announces that Janos Rigo, formerly the husband of Clara Ward, Princess de Chimay, has arrived at Budapest accompanied by an American wife.

He says she was formerly Catherine Hartley, daughter of a professor who is very rich, and that he met her in Astoria, became enamored of her and married her a week after meeting her.

HERE TO SELL TOLSTOY LANDS

COUSIN MICHEL SEEKING A PHILANTHROPIST BUYER.

He Wants Some One Who Will Return a Part of It to an International Commission as a Permanent Memorial—The Rest He May Exploit as He Pleases.

Michel Kousminsky arrived in New York yesterday by the Campania. M. Kousminsky is a nephew of the late Count Tolstoy, and he is looking for a man to buy 300 hectares of the Tolstoy estate, immediately hand over sixty hectares to an international commission and recoup himself, if he chooses, by turning the other 240 into a city, an amusement resort or whatever his fancy dictates and the Russian Government may allow. A hectare is 2.47 acres.

Strange tales of the doings of wealthy Americans have reached rural Russia. There was that case of M. Andrew Kousminsky, for instance, who gave \$25,000,000 rubles simply to promote peace. Four of the sons of Tolstoy called a council. There was talk that the Russian Government might wish to buy the estate or part of it and convert it into a national memorial. Then it was suggested that some one might run over to America and see if a purchaser could not be found here who would be willing to give the price the sons thought the estate was worth and then deed away one-sixth of it to a great international memorial that might be built. The cousin Michel wasn't busy at the moment, so he was charged with the mission, and to America he has come.

M. Kousminsky is the son of the sister of the late Count Tolstoy. His father is Alexander Kousminsky, President of the Russian Senate. M. Kousminsky evidently does not anticipate any great difficulty in finding the man he is looking for, because he said yesterday that he expects to remain over here only ten days.

"The Russian Government wishes to buy Count Tolstoy's birthplace. Tolstoy is buried there, for having been excommunicated from the Church he could not be buried in the cemetery. He lies in his own forest, in the center of a clump of nine oak trees. He chose the spot himself, and it was the one he most loved, for it is the place where he and his older brother, Nicolas, played when they were small children. Nicolas died when he was 18. While they were still children Nicolas one day wrote something upon a board. He told Lyoff that he had found the way to make people happy and had written the recipe on that board. Years afterward Count Lyoff tried to find the ground in the forest, but could not, but the spot always remained hallowed, and he used to say 'Here I am happiest.'"

"According to the Russian law one cannot leave a part of one's property to He must specify individuals or institutions. Tolstoy had five sons and two daughters. To his younger daughter, Alexandra, who acted as his secretary, he left all his works and his literary material, and he also left her a letter giving directions as to how to dispose of his estate and arrange matters. He left an unpublished drama, 'Cadavre,' and an unpublished grand romance on life in the Caucasus, called 'Chadji Bulat.' The Countess Tolstoy has these manuscripts.

"The Government would buy the 300 hectares, with the château, buildings and garden, but the family thinks that as Tolstoy was a cosmopolitan and his memory is held in reverence by people not only of Russia but of many nations it would be a mistake to let the Russian Government have the estate. It is the idea of the four sons, the five having had his share of the estate and not having anything to do with what remains, that about the tomb of Tolstoy sixty hectares should be set aside as a site for a little country of culture. That here should be built perhaps a university and a library and a theatre, whither might resort admirers of Tolstoy and lovers of literature in short that here should be founded a great literary shrine. In this reservation there should not be sold alcohol, to which Tolstoy was opposed in his lifetime, that there should be no hotels or places of amusement in the ordinary sense. The sons are willing that the whole 300 hectares be sold, but only on condition that the buyer shall give to a committee composed of one man from each of a certain number of nations, the sixty hectares to be used as I have mentioned. They wish an American to buy, because in other countries there is not so much money as there is here.

"It would be quite easy to raise the purchase money by subscriptions in Russia alone, but that looks too much like a charity subscription. It is desired preferably that there be only one purchaser, and the number will be limited to three. Naturally an American would head the committee to whom the sixty hectares would be given. We have had offers from all the world to erect buildings, but nothing in that regard has been decided as yet. The offer of buying with this portion of the estate the rest would prove a good investment for an American with means, for the land would be his to do with as he liked, and naturally there would be many visitors to take care of. There would be no liquor restriction on this part of the property."

M. Kousminsky declined to discuss the figure at which the property would be held if the American he is looking for hastened to present himself. He said that he was not making the sale himself, but was instructed to cable to Russia if he found the right person. The sale could then be completed by commissioners sent to Russia for that purpose.

HE FOUGHT WITH GARIBALDI.

Italian Count Who Sold Offices on 14th Street Dies in His Former Office.

The soldierly looking old man with white mustache and imperial who used to traverse Fourteenth street selling plaster casts of Garibaldi, Victor Emmanuel II. and Count Cavour, died of heart disease yesterday in his former office at 45 Broadway as he was wishing a happy new year to the friends of more prosperous days.

He was A. V. Fontana, a Count of Italy, a lieutenant of artillery and one of Garibaldi's Thousand who hoped to return to Rome this year to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of united Italy.

In a room in a lodging house at Third avenue and Fifteenth street, not far from the undertaker's where his body lies, is a trunk containing the medals and military relics of a soldier who helped to unite Italy and end the temporal power of the Pope.

Fontana's name is one of the oldest in Italy. After the Franco-Prussian war he came to this country to recoup the fortune he had given to Italy. He became a member of the firm of Gans & Co., umbrella manufacturers of Philadelphia. Later he became a salesman for another firm.

He was 75 years old. W. R. Hallett, the local manager of Gans & Co., in whose office the old soldier fell dead, and Samuel Crawford, a line importer, told Coroner Winterbottom that Fontana said he lived at 251 East Fifteenth street. There is no house at that address, the number being in Gramercy Park. It was his pride that his friends of the old days should not know that his fortunes had fallen, and so he gave an address that told of quiet gentility.

It was 300 Broadway and Fifteenth street that Fontana's lodging house room was found. The little room contained a narrow bed, a chair and a table. Underneath the bed, because that was the only place in the room that it could be put, was the little battered trunk that held his medals, ribbons and trinkets.

LONDON DOESN'T WANT OPERA.

Anyway Not in English. Beecham Confesses Bitter Defeat.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 31.—It is apparent that Thomas Beecham, who was interviewed today concerning the results of his operatic season, is a profoundly disillusioned and disappointed man. He considers the present and future prospects of opera in England to be very dismal, and confessed himself as profoundly dissatisfied.

"Nobody ever comes to see my productions," he said. "Every one has been crying out for opera in English. Now they have had it for a year and they have never come near the place. There is no public demand for opera of any kind. Frequently the house has not been one-seventh part filled. To give opera for the next five years under the same circumstances I should require to be Carnegie and Rockefeller rolled into one."

TEST OF THE APPORTIONMENT

ANSWER DEFENDS THE DISTRICTING THAT IS IMPEACHED.

Population Surely Did Not Control It. Is Admitted, but Convenience of Railway Communication Figured Largely—Kings Man Amazed That the Figures Came Out Even.

Following the decision by Supreme Court Justice Amundson that the court has jurisdiction to hear the proceedings brought to set aside the apportionment of the State into Senate and Assembly districts in 1907, the answer to the complaint that the apportionment was unconstitutional was filed in the Supreme Court yesterday. The answer was put in by Elton R. Brown, who was designated as special deputy Attorney-General to defend the proceedings, and by Winthrop & Stimson, who were retained by George H. Cobb, President pro tem, of the Senate, and Speaker Wadsworth of the Assembly.

The answer alleges first that the petitioners were guilty of laches in permitting three years to elapse before they objected to the apportionment, and also because they did not act before the recent election. The same alleged defects in the apportionment of 1906, but no one objected to that.

Affidavits are also attached to the answer from all persons who had anything to do with the redistricting of the State into the districts which are alleged to have been formed in violation of the law. Thomas W. Whittle, former secretary of the Republican County Committee of New York county, admits that there is a larger population in some districts in this county than in others, but says that whatever errors of such nature were made are due to oversights and unavoidable mistakes in computing the population of the districts. He insists that the errors were due to honest mistakes and that there was no attempt to violate the law.

John A. Smith, secretary of the county committee of Kings county, who had charge of the apportionment there, says he is at a loss to understand how the variation in the population of some of the Kings districts came about. The general plan, he said, was to lay out the districts with respect to the transportation lines through them, so that it would be easy to get from one part of a district to the other. It was only an incident of the apportionment that certain races constitute the bulk of the voters in some of the districts.

As to Westchester county, which claims to have enough population to entitle it to two Senate districts, the answer says that while the county may have a surplus over the ratio for one district, the population isn't large enough for two districts.

Senator William J. Tully, chairman of the Senate Committee on Apportionment, explained that Tloga, Chemung, Schuyler and Tompkins counties, which form one of the impeached districts, were apportioned in that manner with respect to the lines of communication between them, and the same is declared to be true of Seneca, Cayuga and Cortland counties.

Edwin A. Morrill, Jr., chairman of the Assembly district Committee on Apportionment, said that considerations of population were generally laid aside for the convenience of the communities as to railway communication.

A citizens' committee headed by Seth Low as chairman, and William M. Chadbourne as secretary, got permission from Supreme Court Justice Amundson yesterday to be made parties to the suit along with the Attorney-General and the officers of the Senate and Assembly. The new parties to the proceeding besides Mr. Low and Mr. Chadbourne are Isaac N. Seligman, Frederick W. Whitridge, James R. Sheffield, Charles N. Strong, Felix Arbuthnot and P. Teumseh Sherman. The committee has Republican leanings.

In their petition asking to be made parties the members of the committee say they have entered the proceedings to aid in the presentation of the questions involved to the Court in order that if it is found the apportionment was proper it may be upheld. They say they believe it is for the public interest that an apportionment once made by the Legislature should not be set aside unless it is contrary to law, and that it is the duty of citizens in general, irrespective of party affiliations, to be made parties respondent in the action so that the proceeding will not be directed solely against public officers.

Refuse to Bury Dead Girl. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. ROME, Dec. 31.—The relatives of a dead girl at Taranto have barricaded the house in which the body lies and refuse to deliver it for burial. Troops have been requisitioned to seize the body.

B. Altman & Co.

5TH AVENUE, 34TH AND 35TH STREETS, NEW YORK

AN IMPORTANT SALE OF WOMEN'S CLOAKS

IS ANNOUNCED FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 3d.

WHEN COATS OF MIXED TWEEDS, BLACK CLOTH

AND BLACK VELOUR WILL BE OFFERED AT

THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICES:

\$12.75, 16.50, 21.00, 25.00, 28.00 & 38.00

WOMEN'S DRESSES

ON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4TH, THERE WILL BE PLACED

ON SALE WOMEN'S DRESSES OF COLORED SILK CREPE

METEOR, IN STYLES SUITABLE FOR AFTERNOON

AND EVENING WEAR, AT THE REMARKABLY LOW

PRICE OF

\$18.00

A NUMBER OF SUITS AND DRESSES ARE BEING OFFERED

AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES, INCLUDING TAILOR-

MADE SUITS

AT \$15.00 & 25.00

(BOTH LARGE AND SMALL SIZES ARE INCLUDED.)

NEW IMPORTED FOULARD SILKS

THE LATEST PARIS FASHIONS IN FRENCH

FOULARD SILKS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND

WILL BE SHOWN COMMENCING TUESDAY,

JANUARY 3d.

AN UNUSUAL SALE OF HOUSEHOLD

LINENS, BLANKETS, ETC.

WILL BE HELD BEGINNING TUESDAY AND CONTINUE

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, INCLUDING DAMASK TABLE

CLOTHS AND NAPKINS, HEMSTITCHED SHEETS, PILLOW

CASES AND TOWELS, TOWELLING OF ALL KINDS; ALSO

LUNCHEON SETS, CENTERPIECES, TEA CLOTHS, RECEPTION

CLOTHS, SCARFS, ETC.

SPECIAL MENTION IS MADE OF THE FOLLOWING:

LINEN DAMASK TABLE CLOTHS EACH, \$1.75, 2.35, 3.75 & 4.75
DINNER NAPKINS TO MATCH PER DOZ., \$2.65, 3.35 & 5.00
HEMSTITCHED LINEN SHEETS PER PAIR, \$3.50, 4.25, 5.00 & 5.75
HEMSTITCHED LINEN PILLOW CASES PER PAIR, 90c., \$1.15 & 1.25
HEMME LINEN HUCK TOWELS PER DOZ., \$2.00, 2.65 & 3.60
HEMSTITCHED LINEN HUCK TOWELS PER DOZ., \$3.00, 4.00 & 5.00
HEMME BATH TOWELS PER DOZEN, \$2.50, 2.75 & 3.90

BLANKETS PER PAIR, \$3.75 TO 9.75
WOOL FILLED COMFORTABLES, SILK TOP EACH, \$6.75
SATIN FINISH BEDSPREADS EACH, \$2.50 & 3.50
CROCHET BEDSPREADS EACH, \$1.25 & 1.65
MUSLIN SHEETS EACH, 72c. TO \$1.10
MUSLIN PILLOW CASES EACH, 19c. TO 28c.

THE INITIAL SHOWING OF THE NEW COTTON

DRESS FABRICS AND WHITE EMBROIDERIES

IS ANNOUNCED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 3d.

A SALE OF COLORED DRESS GOODS

ON TUESDAY, A QUANTITY OF FRENCH HENRIETTAS IN

THE NEW SHADES FOR SPRING, SUITABLE FOR STREET

AND EVENING WEAR, USUALLY \$1.10 PER YARD,

WILL BE OFFERED AT THE VERY ATTRACTIVE PRICE OF

78c. PER YARD

SILK AND COTTON DRESS FABRICS

ON TUESDAY THERE WILL BE PLACED ON SALE

25,000 YARDS OF A SILK AND COTTON DRESS MATERIAL,

THE ASSORTMENT OF DESIGNS CONSISTING OF SOLID

COLORS WITH WOVEN SILK DOTS, PRINTED FLORAL DESIGNS

AND PERSIAN EFFECTS; HERETOFORE 38c. PER YARD

SOLID COLORS AT 19c. PER YARD

PRINTED DESIGNS AT 25c. PER YARD

Fifth Avenue, 34th and 35th Streets, New York.

L. P. Hollander & Co.

Fifth Ave. at 46th St.

Great January Clearance Sale

Commencing Tuesday, January 3rd.

Walking Suits
\$25.00 to \$75.00
Were \$45.00 to \$135.00.

Imported Raglan
Motor Coats
\$25.00
Were \$45.00.

Evening Wraps
\$50.00 Upward
Odd Lot

Summer Garments
From \$15.00

Handkerchiefs
Box 1/2 Doz. \$2.00
Were \$4.00.
Exceptional Value

Evening and
Dinner Gowns
\$55.00
Were \$85.00 to \$125.00.

Misses'
Evening Dresses
of Chiffon
\$30.00
Were \$55.00.

Children's
Wool Dresses
Hand Embroidered
\$10.00
Were \$22.00 and \$28.00.

Children's
Velveteen Coats
\$25.00
Were \$45.00 to \$75.00.

Women's
French Glace
Kid Gloves
For the sale 95c
Regular price \$1.50.

Separate Waists
From \$3.00

Women's Neckwear
From 25c
Was from 75 cents.

Face Veiling
Now 15c per yard.

Little Children's
and Infants' Coats
and Bonnets Way Below Cost.

Women's & Children's
Hats
\$5 and \$10

Lingerie Dept.
GOWNS.....now \$5.00
CHEMISES.....now \$5.00
COMBINATIONS.....now \$5.00
DRAWERS.....now \$2.25

Corsets
Regular Price \$12.00
Fitted for \$6.00

Silk Petticoats
Now \$8.50
Were \$15.00.

All Leather Goods
Novelties, Fans, etc.
Very Much Reduced

POSITIVELY no goods sent on approval or exchanged during Sale